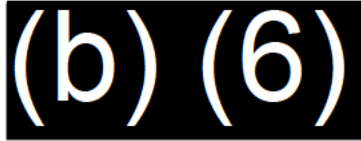


## Jonathan Nelson



### Core Competencies

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- **Water and Environmental Policy Expertise** – Nationally recognized expert on strategies to secure access to safe and affordable drinking water for underserved communities, build resilient drinking water institutions, and leverage water opportunities to recover more equitably from the COVID-19 pandemic. Campaign manager for successful 2017-2019 effort to secure \$1b in new water funding for underserved communities of color in California, and then served as key architect of successful implementation. Author of numerous water/EJ legislative acts, regulations, and policy proposals. Served as water and environmental justice advisor for presidential campaigns (including co-chairing Biden Presidential Campaign's Rural Infrastructure Committee), Congress, national foundations, California Governor and Legislature, and national/state foundations, associations and nonprofits.
- **Stakeholder and Community Engagement Expert** – Expert in building community and stakeholder engagement/trust, including: acting as the point of contact between frontline communities and elected and agency officials; creating innovative diverse coalitions that shift power dynamics and open up new pathways for progress; and designing programs, strategies, processes and messaging that help cultivate community partnerships and build community leadership. Facilitated countless meetings between EJ community members/leaders and national, state and local elected and agency officials, including on highly controversial/complex topics. A trusted voice with environmental justice and water equity organizations across the US.
- **Organizational Leader** – Experience serving in leadership positions within organizations, including directly supervising and managing staff/teams, overseeing and executing complex organizational policy programs and initiatives, collaborating with organizational leadership to set overall strategic/policy agendas, developing and managing budgets and contracts, and representing organizations externally. Also experienced serving in highly visible public positions, including as a CA Governor State Council appointee & serving on CA Water Board's public advisory board for implementing \$1b in water funding.
- **Legislative, Regulatory and Policy Advocacy** – Experienced in all aspects of legislative and regulatory advocacy, including: writing legislation and regulations, crafting sophisticated legislative and regulatory strategies, advancing key organizational legislative and regulatory priorities, managing day-to-day engagement on legislative and regulatory matters, testifying before legislative committees and regulatory boards, developing strong advocacy messaging that resonates and persuades, and building coalitions that help organizations achieve their legislative, regulatory and policy goals.
- **Strategic Communications** – Extensive experience in designing and then executing strategic communications campaigns designed to advance organizational objectives, including: developing comprehensive communications strategies, creating persuasive messaging that compels action, interfacing with external press and managing media engagement, serving as a lead spokesperson for key organizational priorities, and coordinating and managing internal and external communications resources.
- **Oral and Written Advocacy** – Frequent public speaker and writer. Engagements include remarks before Congress, state and national legislative and regulatory committees/boards, speeches before large audiences (500+), and presentations at conferences, universities and community venues. Interviewed by/published in many media outlets.

### Notable Accomplishments

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- **Legislative and Regulatory** – Authored major California drought legislation in 2021. Helped lead national water equity advocacy in 2021 as part of infrastructure bill/Build Back Better. Served as campaign manager for historic effort that secured over \$1b in new funding for safe drinking water needs in California through enactment of the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund in 2019 after a 3-year campaign, and then appointed by California leadership in 2020 to steer implementation. Testified repeatedly before Congress and California Legislature on water issues. Secured tens of millions in competitive regulatory grant funding to help create the nation's first all-electric bus transit fleet in 2014-2016. Acted as campaign manager for legislation that provided for the largest expansion of pharmacy scope of practice in decades to help increase access to basic health services in 2012-2013. Played a leading and/or collaborative role in navigating over 20 legislative proposals through the California Legislature and into law between 2012 and 2021.
- **Water Equity and Environmental Justice Leadership** – Helped shape groundbreaking policy initiatives, such as the development of the California Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund proposal, utilization of the Human Right to Water framework in state and national decision-making, and expansion of access to basic services in underserved areas. Regularly called upon as a policy expert to testify at both the national and state level and as part of stakeholder convenings and conferences. Co-authored op-ed on water affordability and equitable COVID recovery in 2021 with Dolores Huerta.
- **Strategic Communications/Campaign Management/Coalition Building** – Led or co-led multiple advocacy and strategic communications campaigns over the years, including the 2017-2019 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund campaign, the 208-2021 national Water Equity and Climate Resilience Caucus, and a 2020 COVID/water equity initiative that secured support of stakeholders representing over 500 entities as diverse as Dolores Huerta and the California Chamber of Commerce to raise the profile of water as an engine of equitable COVID recovery.

## Timeline

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### **Community Water Center**

*Policy Director*

2016 to 2021

- Served in senior organizational leadership position for 5 years at nation's leading environmental justice organization that works on water equity issues at the local, state and national level.
- Led and oversaw organization's legislative, regulatory, strategic advocacy communications and policy campaigns to secure safe and affordable drinking water for all Californians, with particular focus on low-income communities of color.
- Managed in-house team of advocates, lawyers, policy analysts and communications professionals.
- Serves as an external liaison to federal, state and local decision makers, as well as other water sector stakeholders and the media. This includes testifying before Congress, the California Legislature and the State Water Resources Control Board.
- Built up the organization's strategic planning, annual planning and staff planning processes to position organization for next chapter of growth and impact. Served as Executive Director's senior advisor for last 3 years.

### **Jonathan Nelson Consulting**

*Owner*

2016 to 2021

- Provided strategic consulting services with particular focus on water, environmental and good governance sectors, including The Water Foundation, DigDeep, US Water Alliance, the Weideman Group, and Vitu.

### **Weideman Group, Inc.**

*Associate*

2014 to 2016

- Managing associate for government affairs firm with a large portfolio of environmental, healthcare, labor, technology and public sector clients.
- Directly represented clients on legislative and regulatory matters, with expertise in healthcare, environmental, transit and technology issue areas, and provided strategic communications and messaging support.
- Lead for firm's grant writing work, securing tens of millions of dollars in direct funding for clean energy and transportation projects.

### **California Society of Health-System Pharmacists**

*Government Affairs and Special Projects Manager*

2012 to 2014

- Served as internal coordinator for government affairs, communications and health policy initiatives; was quickly promoted into day-to-day management responsibilities for these areas.
- Represented organization before the California Legislature, regulatory agencies and industry stakeholders.
- Reimagined organization's online and written engagement strategy with member network; launched new communications systems; and led internal committees, task forces and initiatives.

## Education

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**B.A., Political Science, University of California, Davis – 2012**

## Public Service

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**California State Water Resources Control Board Advisory Group, NGO Representative – 2020-2021**

**California State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Gubernatorial Appointee – 2020-2021**

**Biden Presidential Campaign, Co-Chair, Rural Infrastructure Committee – 2020**

**Warren Presidential Campaign, Policy Advisor – 2019 to 2020**

**Stanford Youth Solutions, Board Member – 2014 to 2016**